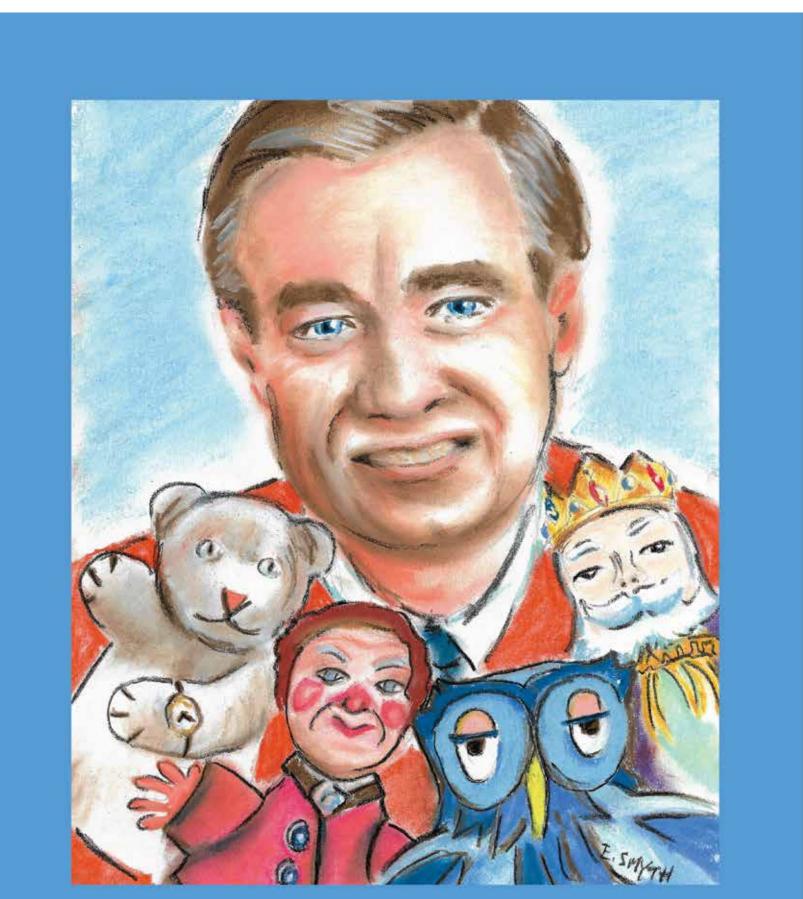


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# THE MR. ROGERS ISSUE

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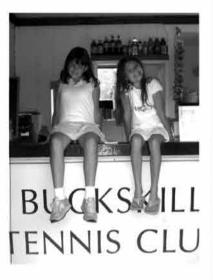




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### Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

What a wonderful, sensitive man! Adored by children for generations with compassion and goodness, he taught children sensitive, beautiful lessons, not to be afraid of everyday things, and how to make believe with characters like Daniel Tiger, Henrietta Pussycat, X the Owl, King Friday XIII, the trolley that brought many in TV-land into the Kingdom of Make-Believe, and a dozen more.

The world loved Mr. Rogers, and will miss him forever and ever, in the hearts of children who were glued to their television to watch this sweet show with its important lessons, not so long ago.

> Sincerely, Eric Wald

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-Fred Rogers

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This 1984 photo shows Fred Rogers, the star of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood, rehearsing with his puppet co-stars.

### Mr. Rogers' Message For Children written by Jerry Cimisi

photo credit: Associated Press

ister Rogers' Neighborhood and Sesame Street would prove to be the most popular and long-running children's programs ever offered to children. But they both had different objectives. Sesame Street taught children how to count and read, while Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood taught children how to face their own feelings and the feelings of those around them. Mr. Rogers also taught children how to cope with the often-bad news of the larger world.

He told children it is OK to feel whatever you feel. He said, "When we can talk about our feelings, they become less overwhelming, less upsetting, and less scary. The people we trust with that important talk can help us know that we're not alone."

He also stressed, "We are all longing for perfection, but that doesn't mean you have to be 'perfect' to be loved."

Most importantly, all of us should behave kindly toward each other. "As different as we are from one another, as unique as each one of us is, we are much more the same than we are different. That may be the most essential message of all, as we help our children grow toward being caring, compassionate, and charitable adults."

In his famous testimony before Congress to plead for more funds for public television, on which his program was aired, Fred Rogers said, "I give an expression of care every day to each child, to help him realize that he is unique. I end the program by saying, 'You've made this day a special day, by just your being you. There's no person in the whole world like you, and I like you, just the way you are.' And I feel that if we in public television can only make it clear that feelings are mentionable and manageable, we will have done a great service for mental health. I think that it's much more dramatic that two men could be working out their feelings of anger—much more dramatic than showing something of gunfire. I'm constantly concerned about what our children are seeing...."

At the same time Mr. Rogers dealt with the problems of the everyday world, he knew it was necessary for the inner growth of a children to have a special make-believe world. So he presented to them the Neighborhood of Make Believe, a kingdom of hand puppets and live characters.

The Neighborhood of Make Believe appeared in the middle of most episodes. Mr. Rogers would have a change from the "real world" and the Neighborhood of Make-Believe by having a red and yellow model electric trolley entering and exiting through small tunnels in the wall, to go to and from the Neighborhood of Make Believe. Some of puppets there include: King Friday XIII. He is the temperamental ruler of the Neighborhood. He likes to use big words, even for songs like "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." He calls them his royal versions. He had two pet wooden birds. His wife is Queen Sara Saturday, and their son is Prince Tuesday, who is a boy with a lot of curiosity. The Queen is more easy-going than her husband.

X the Owl lives in an old oak tree. He loves to learn new things and is eager and cheerful. He studies at the Owl Correspondence School and his idol is Benjamin Franklin.

Henrietta Pussycat lives in a little yellow and orange schoolhouse in a tree, where her students are several mice. When she talks, she always inserts "Meow" into her sentences.

Daniel Striped Tiger is the first puppet Mr. Rogers created. He is shy and lives in a grandfather clock with no hands; in the Neighborhood of Make Believe, it is whatever time you imagine.

Lady Elaine Fairchilde is outspoken, cranky and often has arguments with King Friday. She will frequently say "Okay, toots." She has her Boomerang-Toomerang-Zoomerang, which she uses to turn the Neighborhood upside-down.

Donkey Hodie is a donkey that lives in Someplace Else with Harriet Elizabeth Cow and operates a Washer Dryer Sorter Dumper there.

There are many more characters in the Neighborhood of Make Believe: Grandpere Tiger, Collette Tiger, the Frogg Family and their son Tadpole, the Platypus Family; Harriet Elizabeth Elephant III, Old Goat, New Goat, and many more.

There are also live characters in the Kingdom of Make Believe, people who also visit Mr. Rogers in the "real world."

There is Mr. McFeely, the speedy delivery man, who brings letters and packages; Handyman Negri who also plays the guitar; Chef Brockett, a baker; Officer Clemmons, who also appears in plays and operas; Scientist Adler; Mr. Appel, a struggling magician; Lady Aberlin, King Friday's niece; Pilot Ito, King Friday's royal pilot; Robert Troll, from the castle; Nurse Miller, who works for Dr. Frogg; and Mayor Maggie, mayor of a democracy bordering the Neighborhood of Make Believe. Mr. Rogers introduced her to show that women can and do hold political offices. There are many others.

Mr. Rogers once said that the Neighborhood of Make Believe was like a dream. When viewers leave and come back to reality on the show, "We deal with a simple interpretation of the dream."

He also said, "Our society is much more interested in information than wonder. I feel that we need a lot more wonder."

The Waldo Tribune



## **Mr. Rogers' TV Show**

written by Debbie Tuma photo credit: Associated Press

Hey Kids! Did you know there was a very popular TV show for kids named *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*? It was on for over 30 years, from 1968 to 2001, and it was mostly for pre-school children from about two to five years old, but it was also popular with all ages of people.

This is because Mister Rogers made people feel good when they watched it! He became like a trusted friend to millions of children, by letting them know he cared about them, their world and their feelings. Mister Rogers, whose real name was Fred Rogers, looked into the TV camera and sang and talked to each child watching, like he or she was the only child watching. He was nice, kind, happy and positive.

Mister Rogers would act like he was "visiting" each child and his TV show would start with him singing "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" And then he would take off his jacket and put on a sweater and sneakers. He would sing and say things to kids that mattered to them...like he was their friend!

He had a great imagination, and he would use the Neighborhood Trolley to send the viewers to the land of Make-Believe. He would take children on a journey to places that they would learn about, showing them new places in the neighborhood.

One of Mister Rogers' most important messages was that "you are OK just the way you are." He made kids feel good about themselves, and kids wanted to be his friend. Mister Rogers also liked to have fun with the children, playing games like "Hide and Seek." He always ended his half-hour shows with the message that "I'll be back." One of his messages was "I'll think of you when I'm not here, because thinking of people makes them seem near." He wanted his audience to feel like it was not just a TV show, but a visit between neighbors.

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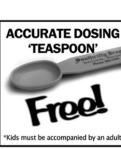


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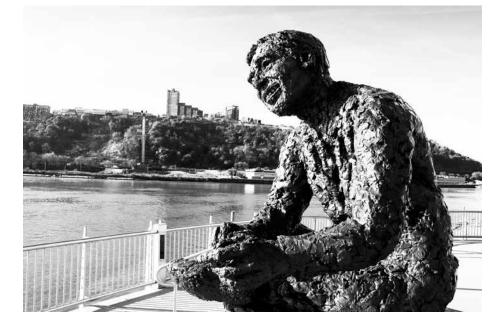
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## **Mr. Rogers Memorial Statue**

written by Paula Timpson photo credit: Associated Press

red Rogers, or better known as Mr. Rogers, was a kind, good man who loved children. His television show, *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*, which ran from 1960 to 2001, was a popular show for kids and parents. It helped children understand their feelings, develop patience, and feel worthy. After Mr. Rogers' passing in 2003, Cordelia May, a longtime friend of his, inspired in 2009 a special bronze statue of Mr. Rogers to be built and dedicated to Family Communications, the company created by Mr. Rogers. The sculpture was built by Robert Berks near water, to honor Mr. Rogers' love of swimming. Every day, he swam in the local pool. It brought him a nice feeling of calm. It is a Kindness Day statue near the North Shore, on the Allegheny River.

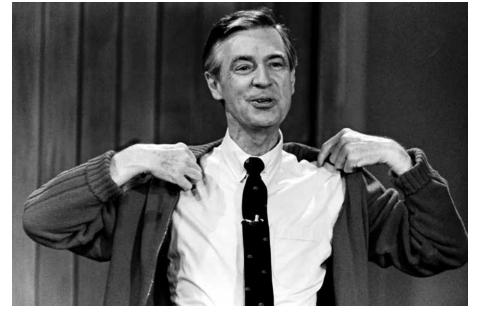
Mr. Rogers loved peace, and felt the environment with water was a way to find quiet. The statue shows Mr. Rogers bending down, tying his sneakers, just as he did to begin each show. He made a huge difference to the city's youth. Mr. Rogers Memorial statue is in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It stands 10 feet 10 inches tall, showing how big he was in children's eyes; yet Mr. Rogers remained humble. He was given the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2002. He was well loved by so many. It weighs 7,000 pounds. Twenty-nine songs play at the statue for all to enjoy listening to Mr. Rogers' singing.

Mr. Rogers created every song on his show, and hundreds more. Artist Alicia Kachmar crocheted a large red sweater for the sculpture, just like Mr. Rogers wore. His mom made all of his sweaters. One is donated to the Smithsonian. Mr. Rogers' widow, Joanne, made a tooth look more like her husband as the sculpture was being built. May 23 is Mr. Rogers Day. It is the 143rd day of the year. "Three ways to success are to be kind, be kind and be kind, " Mr. Rogers said.

As a child, he was bullied. To help himself, he made up songs on the piano, looking inside everyone to find the "essential invisible." He responded to every fan letter.

May his statue remind us of the positives in life, and to always be kind. To respond to the needs of children makes for a bright future. Mr. Rogers will forever be a big part of Pittsburgh's history.





## The History of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood

written by Jerry Cimisi photo credit: Associated Press

Long before the very popular *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*, Fred Rogers was on television in children's shows.

In 1954, public TV station WQED in Pittsburgh debuted *The Children's Corner*, where Mr. Rogers appeared as a puppeteer and composer with host Josie Careya live and unscripted show. The show won a Sylvania Award for best children's show and was briefly broad-cast nationally on NBC.

In 1961, Mr. Rogers moved to Toronto, Canada, to work on a series called *MisteRogers*, a 15 minute program. It aired for four years, and for the first time, Fred Rogers appeared as himself on TV.

In 1966, he returned to WQED in Pittsburgh, renaming the show *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. It was broadcast in Boston, Washington, D.C., and New York City. The series was canceled in 1967 due to lack of funding, but there was a demand from viewers that the show continue, so Mr. Rogers looked for further funding and found it through the Sears-Roebuck Foundation which enabled the show to be seen nationwide on National Educational Television (NET). It was first broadcast on February 19, 1968.

In 1970, when the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) replaced NET, the show's title became *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. It was broadcast until February 1976, when Rogers took a break from the show to produce adult programs, while reruns of the show continued on PBS. The show resumed at the end of August 1979 and ran to August 2001. The final episode had been taped December 1, 2000. The studio at WQED was later renamed "The Fred Rogers Studio."

On each show, Mr. Rogers did not act as a character, but was just himself. He would say, "The greatest gift you can give anybody is the gift of your honest self." Mr. Rogers would talk about many different topics, present crafts, music, experiments and puppets who would take part in stories of the Neighborhood of Make Believe. Mr. Rogers would also go around to different places in the neighborhood, such as a bakery and workshop, and interview people about their work.

At the beginning of each show, Fred Rogers would enter his television house, wearing a jacket and singing "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" He hangs up his jacket, puts on a cardigan sweater, takes his dress shoes off and puts on a pair of blue sneakers. One of those sneakers now hangs in the Smithsonian Institution, where many items that have been important to America's cultural history are shown.

At the end of each episode, Mr. Rogers sang "It's Such a Good Feeling," took off his sweater, put his jacket and dress shoes back on, went to the door to leave, and said, "You always make each day a special day. You know how: By just your being yourself. There's only one person in the whole world that's like you, and that's you. And people can like you just exactly the way you are. I'll be back next time. Byebye!"

Fred Rogers composed and sang more than 200 songs for Mr.

*Rogers' Neighborhood*, most of which he wrote himself. He also wrote and edited all the episodes and created all the characters.

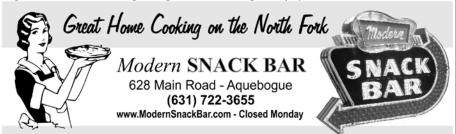
To seek federal funding for public television and especially children's programming, Mr. Rogers made what is now a famous appearance before Congress in 1969, before the Senate Committee on Communications, because President Richard Nixon wanted to cut funding for public television in half, from \$20 million to \$10 million. Because public television does not have commercials, it needs private donations and government funding to put on its programs.

How Mr. Rogers presented himself and support for public television has been called one of the most moving testimonies ever given in Congress. The committee was chaired by Senator John Pastore of Rhode Island. The senator was literally brought to tears by Mr. Rogers, who began by saying, "One of the first things a child learns in a healthy family is trust," adding he trusted Senator Pastore to hear his case fairly. He talked about how his show tried to help children cope with the feelings they experience in a world they were trying to understand. Then he recited one of his songs, "What Do You Do With the Mad That You Feel?" He said the title of the song came from a question a child had asked him.

As Rogers recited, Pastore nodded his head, and, at the end, said, "I think it's wonderful, I think it's wonderful," adding, "Looks like you just earned the \$20 million."

Mr. Rogers had saved the day not only for his show, but for all public television!

(You can watch Fred Rogers' testimony at https://www.pbs. org/video/mister-rogers-goes-washington-ycjrnx.)



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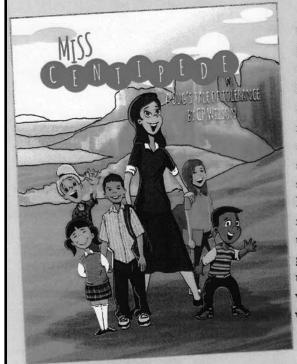
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## **Mister Rogers' Puppets**

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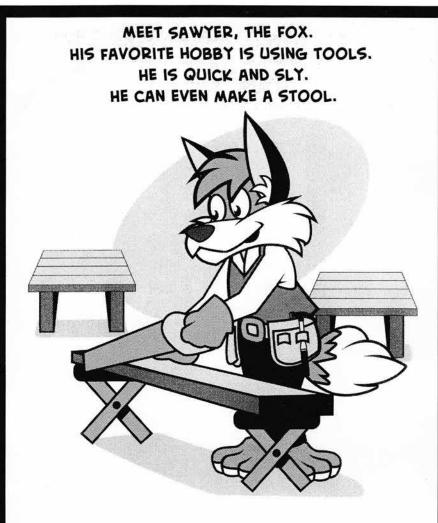
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## written by Debbie Tuma illustration by Connie McGuinness

Hey Kids! Do you like puppets? Have you ever been to a puppet show? Mister Rogers loved puppets and used them to entertain children on his long-running TV show of over 30 years. He used them to tell stories and give messages to children to help them to understand different situations that happen to people.

The names of the famous puppets on *Mister Roger's Neighborhood* TV show were: King Friday XIII, Queen Sarah, Henrietta Pussycat, X the Owl, Lady Elaine Fairchilde, Daniel Tiger, and Grandpere. Mister Rogers shared the puppets in the Neighborhood of Make Believe. He performed many of the puppet personalities himself, and he used the puppets to talk about difficult topics the children could relate to.

The different puppets had different personalities. For example, Lady Elaine Fairchilde was the neighborhood mischief maker, using her "Boomerang-Zoomerang" to rearrange the neighborhood, or turn it upside down. She also discovered Planet Purple while flying on her spaceship!

Henrietta Pussycat lived in a little house in the same tree as X the Owl. Although these two puppets were very different, they were best friends. Henrietta was a



sweet, shy pussycat who "meowed" many of her words and loved dressing in fancy clothes.

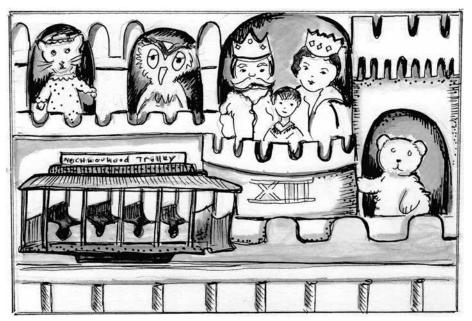
Some of these famous puppet characters are on display in the Pittsburgh Children's Museum. Fred Rogers, or Mister Rogers, was born and passed away in this city in Pennsylvania.

Mister Roger's famous red sweater and his sneakers are on display at the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

Mister Rogers had lots of fun with all his puppets, bringing them to life on his TV show. Many of the children watching his show had their favorite puppets.

Mister Rogers was very talented to be able to sing and laugh and bring these puppets to life on his over 30 seasons of half-hour TV shows. Do you have a favorite puppet that you like? Maybe you can create your own puppet shows with your friends.





### Movie Review: A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

written by Paula Timpson illustration by Connie McGuinness

om Hanks plays Mister Rogers, a special role, in the 2019 movie, A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood. It is a biography drama, a true story of a real-life friendship. It did very well at the box office. It was nominated for an Oscar. Many people love to watch kindness in action, and many admire the beloved Fred Rogers, better known as Mister Rogers. In the movie, Tom Hanks looks just like Mr. Rogers, as he shows us his caring, most kind heart.

Mr. Rogers meets Lloyd Vogel, an investigative journalist, played by Matthew Rhys. They become good friends. The movie is based on Tom Junod's life in 1998, when he wrote for *Esquire* magazine about Mr. Rogers. He won the National Award for Magazine Writing. In the movie, he is named Lloyd Vogel. Even though he is known as a strongly critical person, Mr. Rogers lets him interview him. Mr. Rogers opens him up to truly know himself, as Mr. Lloyd overcomes his challenging past. It is a nice surprise to see his great healing, as Mr. Rogers interviews him in his gentle and loving way.

The audience sees how much Mr. Rogers lives his goodness. His light shines in everyone he meets. Everyone has value, and Mr. Rogers shows us how to be kind every day of our lives.

A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood makes us feel close to Mr. Rogers once again. He is so close to the hearts of those who watch him. People enjoy reliving their childhoods through Mr. Rogers. He changed so many lives for the better. Each person is worthy. Mr. Rogers is a legend, alive forever. Kindness always wins over evil. In this movie, we see a beautiful transformation of an angry journalist made into a kind person, simply by knowing Mr. Rogers, this man was turned around for the good. Forgiveness is a wonderful thing. Mr. Rogers shows us we can get rid of the angry and mad feelings we have and replace them.

Be kind and help others. This is the best way to live.

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*Pictured is U.S. swimmer Marc Spitz at the Olympic Games in Munich in 1972.* 



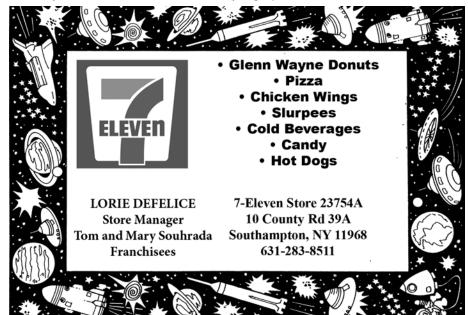
written by Christopher Clark, age 15, *The Waldo Tribune* Junior Sports Columnist photo credit: Staff/picture-alliance/dpa/AP Images

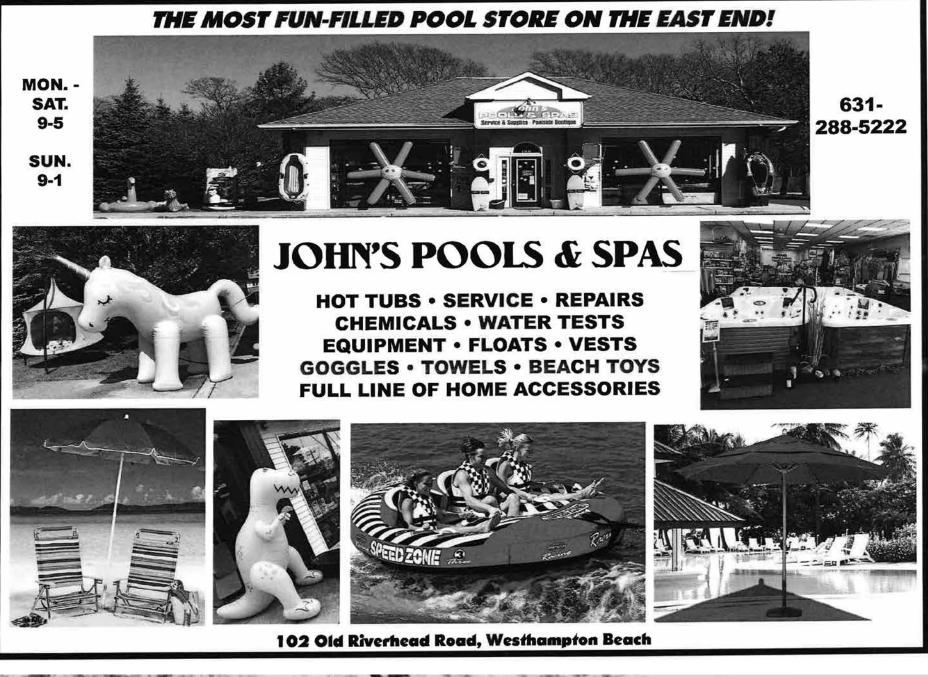
The summer Olympics is one of the most fun sporting competitions in the world. In fact, it has the second biggest global impact of all sporting events or competitions in the world, just behind the World Cup. Every four years, hundreds of millions of people tune in to see where their country lands on the leaderboard, and how their favorite athletes are doing. The Olympics consist of many sports, but over the years, swimming has been a fan favorite, putting up both the second most views, as well as handing out the second most medals.

Olympic swimming started all the way back when the modern-day Olympics, as we know it, started back in 1896. Although originally the Olympics only included freestyle and breaststroke, while the backstroke was included eight years and two games later in 1904, and the butterfly stroke even after that. As far as the competitions are held today, all four strokes are included in various distances, plus relays for both genders makes swimming consist of the most competitions by sport aside from athletics, or as most people call it, track and field.

Over the years, swimming has given way to many stars who have taken over at the largest stage and won medals in big races. It all started in the 1970s when Olympic swimming's first big star appeared, winning seven gold medals in his prime. Next up is Kristen Otto, who won a combined six golds, which is still the record to break for women's swimming. Then came Michael Phelps. Phelps won eight golds and 36 medals total, which is first all time in men's and women's for both. There has never been and will never be a shortage of stars in Olympic swimming. No matter what country you stand behind, there is a plethora of talent in each Olympic games.

Olympic swimming is one of the coolest sports to watch on TV. Almost every race provides close finishes and big story lines that lots of Olympic sports just don't give. It's truly amazing watching humans glide through water at the rate that these Olympians do, so I highly suggest watching it this summer when the 2021 games appear on TV. It really is one of the most electrifying sports of all time.







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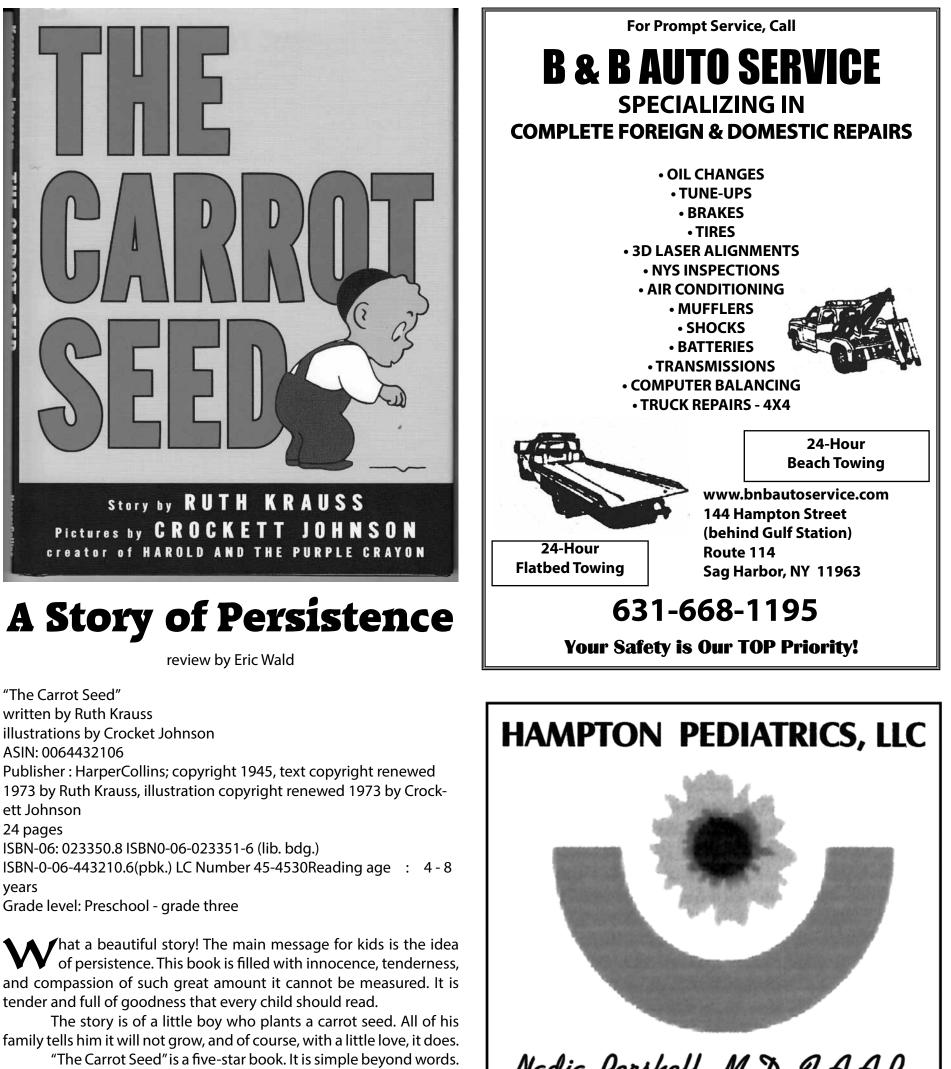
## A Generation of Three Siblings, Then and Now

written by Eric Wald photo on left by Monroe Edelstein, photo on right by Patrick Mitchell

The been preserved in time for over 40 years, and just recently taken at the same piano in the same home in the same town in New Jersey. The piano is a major part of the lives of the Mitchells. The Mitchells have always been readers. Their mom was an English college professor. Her three children grew up reading. Edith (at left) studied and became a Registered Nurse. Patrick (in middle) studied and now is a mathematics college professor, and Susan (at right) majored in journalism and received her bachelor's degree, and runs a children's newspaper with her husband, Eric Wald.

The Mitchells love spending time together going to theater performances and concerts. Susan once studied the flute, and Patrick sings in concerts and theatrical productions.

Time has been good to the Mitchells. They have all grown up, now absolutely beautifully, from little kids to full-grown adults. They are as close as any family can be, with a bond so great words can't define or express. They are one cell, one family, one tree, one home, where they blossom and grow, but are frozen in time, in space in this photo, forever, that explains the goodness and kindness in their hearts and minds.



It makes you feel tenderness that touches your very heart. This book gives you hope for humanity that childhood can and does, the stuff that dreams are made of, that holds your very being, like a bright beam to your very essence that holds your soul and makes childhood exist as sure as you and I, and the book grabs your very heart and makes it filled with love.

This book has been handed down from generation to generation. It is a part of what makes childhood a part of innocence, a part of what makes one feel the loss of that part of oneself that it tries to hold onto with all its might.

"The Carrot Seed" is part of my childhood and that of millions of other boys and girls throughout the world who automatically become changed just by reading it. Please read this book. It will make you a better person for life, and help you hold onto your childhood forever inside.

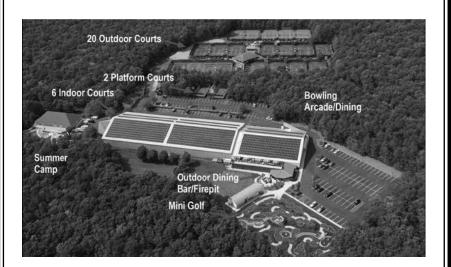
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### The Game Room at the Club House

written by Eric Wald

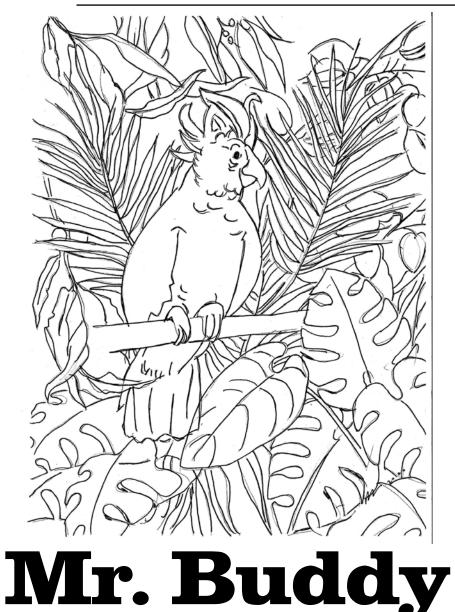
s the only bowling alley in the Hamptons, kids can come and have a fun place to go and escape during these Covid times. Come play the games just for the fun of it, for the competition with your friends, for the win, or to win a wonderful prize from James at our redemption desk. There are over 40 games for ages four and up. Practice and play old-school pinball, skeeball, or our 3D virtual.

Spend as long as you wish. Hours may vary. Call the Clubhouse or check the website clubhousehamptons.com. There is no admission fee. Just pay for each game, and have fun!

One thing is for sure; there's lots of fun at their 10-lane state-of-the-art bowling alley. There is also a miniature golf course, with water hazards and lights on at night. There is a full-service restaurant bar on the property, so if it's raining, or you just want to go have fun, The Clubhouse is waiting for you. Come and have lots of fun at The Clubhouse!



The Waldo Tribune



written by Eric and Susan Wald drawing by Rosemary Szczygiel

ot so long ago, we answered a newspaper classified ad under "Pets" for a white cockatoo for sale called Buddy. He was a beautiful, all-white 12-year-old umbrella cockatoo, with yellow streaks. The family couldn't keep him because of a toddler who kept picking on him. We immediately fell in love with him. We already had another parrot called Gomez, an east African red-bellied parrot called Gomez, who loves my wife but won't let me get near.

Soon, we bought Buddy a huge King's cage. We found out from the Long Island Parrot Society what to feed him. We found out he loves cream and Cheerios for breakfast, (like Gomez), and Lafeber's Nutri-Berries with dry food for dinner. Susan, my wife, makes sure he has water all the time. We change his newspaper on the bottom of the cage, and scrub and wipe off the cage several times a week.

On his first day home with us, we heard an incredible scream. We looked at one another, and asked each other, "What have we got ourselves into?" He then started to talk. He said, "I'm a good boy."

- "Can I have a cracker?"
- "Whatsa matter?"
- "Howya doin'?"

And then, one day, on August 1, two years after we got him, he looked me in the eye and asked, very clearly, "Did you know today is my birthday?" We replied, "No, happy birthday, Buddy!" We immediately bought him a special toy.

One December, he has said what sounded like , "I want a cataract."

Susan replied, "Why would you want a horrible eye disease?" "For Christmas, I want a Cadillac," he replied. "I go bye-bye." "How are you going to go bye-bye?"

"In my Cadillac."

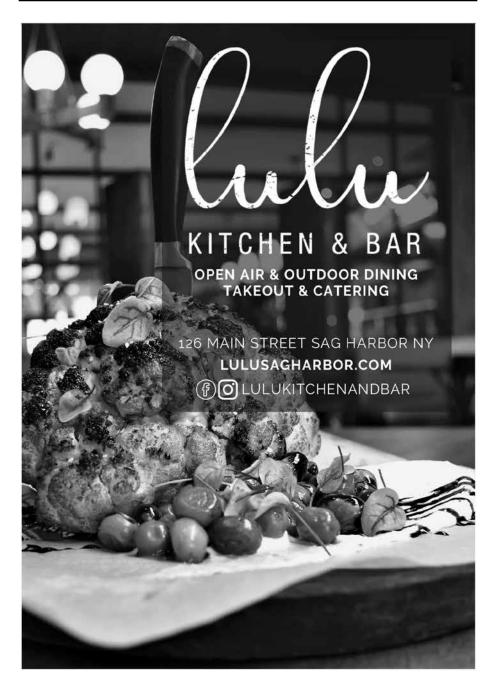
He has asked the vet technicians at the animal hospital for the same. Hard to explain to Mr. Buddy that vet technicians don't make that kind of money!

Well, my wife and I have fallen in love with Buddy. He could live to be over 100 years old. He loves to be kissed. Of course, he bites sometimes, but all birds bite. We'll keep him as long as we can.



716 Springs-Fireplace Road Springs, NY 11937

## 631-604-6344



GB



## Mr. Pussycat

written by Eric Wald photo by Susan Wald

When someone comes into your life, then disappears without warning, then after a time, you realize how much you loved him in your heart, the memories that stay with you forever, and the sadness of having them gone is more than one human being can stand.

We loved our little cat we named Mr. Pussycat. He was a part of me that grew on me. Never having been a cat person, he showed up at my house one day out of the blue, and my life was so much better. He gave me joy, and I loved giving him love. He grew on me like a son or a daughter or an animal that gives you his heart with his bear-like face, his sharp claws, his all-black body, and his beautiful, beautiful, beautiful, green eyes.

He would spend nights curled up at the end of our bed, fast asleep. Sometimes, he would sit outside the door for hours, no matter what we did to bring him in for the night.

When you have a semi-feral cat that lives with you, every time he leaves your house, you don't know if he's ever coming back, and if he leaves for a long time, your heart aches and your very being becomes torn apart. You stand by the door, night after night, calling his name. Your soul hurts, and you feel like an orphan or a father who can't find a member of his family.

Well, Mr. Pussycat is gone, and all hope of finding him alive is gone. He has passed away. I feel like I was hit by a truck. Tears come and go. I feel abandoned and hurt beyond words. We miss you, Mr. Pussycat. We will never forget you. We love you forever and ever and ever.

You found us one day and loved us, and we loved you. He has crossed over rainbow bridge, our friend, forever and ever.



## Mister Rogers' Facts and One Joke

written and illustrated by Greg Bullock

• Fred McFeely Rogers was born on March 20, 1928 in Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

• Fred Rogers earned a degree in music from Rollins College in 1951. He began his television career at NBC and later worked for NET which became PBS. He specialized in producing children's programming.

• In 1963, he earned a divinity degree from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and became a Presbyterian minister.

• In 1968, he began to produce and star in the show *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*.

• His honors include a Lifetime Achievement Emmy, The Presidential Medal of Honor and the Television Hall of Fame.

• Fred Rogers' wife, Joanne, was an accomplished pianist and gave many public concerts.

• What did the horse say to Mr. Rogers?

"Welcome to the Neiiiiiighborhood!"

## Dear Ms. Spiral Notebook

#### Dear Ms. Spiral Notebook,

My son is in third grade and is very frustrated when working on his homework. When he encounters a problem he doesn't know, he shuts down and has a difficult time moving forward. This is resulting in us taking longer to complete the nightly homework, which is resulting in less "play" time for him, which causes him more anxiety.

The first step is to stop the work before the anxiety, frustration set in. You begin by establishing a five-minute time frame to complete the homework. After five minutes, let your son



choose a one-minute brain break activity. If during the five minutes you see frustration setting in or a struggle with a concept, have him put a post-it on it and move on to the next item. After the homework is done, alternating between five minutes of work and one minute of brain pause, ask your son to pick items that he struggled with to now complete. If he is hesitant, write a

note to the teacher.

Ideally, you do not want him associating homework as a negative. You want to establish that homework time is not about frustration but about learning how to become better at the new skills we have learned. The goal is to increase the work time to 10 minutes, with an increase of two minutes each week. You keep the brain pauses in place. If you find that he is still really frustrated, you may want to contact the school counselor. Often, schools have groups in place that work on this very topic.

#### Dear Ms. Spiral Notebook,

#### What can I do to support literacy in my home?

The key is to have your child "see" you immerse in literacy. That being said, find materials that interest your child. You may want to start with small pieces so that you do not frustrate or overwhelm. Children often like to have subscriptions to magazines that focus on their interests.

#### Dear Ms. Spiral Notebook,

#### Summer is here, and I want to keep my child's brain engaged. Any creative ideas?

Online puzzles are great, and they can address multiple disciplines. There are those that focus on math skills and those that focus on literacy skills. This site has a bunch of options and even a magazine.

https://lovattspuzzles.com/kids/childrens-online-puzzles/

PARENTS AND TEACHERS: Have a question about your child's or student's education or learning? You may contact Ms. Spiral Notebook at waldoandtulip@optonline.net, with "Ms. Spiral Notebook" in the subject line. You may also fax your question to us at 631-808-3248, or mail it to her c/o The Waldo Tribune, P.O. Box 2587, Sag Harbor, NY 11963.

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Dear Waldo,

I am happy to hear about the next issue profiling Fred Rodgers, who created *Mister Rodgers' Neighborhood*. As a youngster, I regularly viewed the show because Mr. Rodgers was kind and patient. The show was easy for children to understand. One of the features I enjoyed most was trips to places, and learning how things were made. My favorite character was Henrietta Pussycat. I was amazed, as an adult, to read that Mr. Rodgers created the characters and puppets, and voiced the puppets.

I also liked Mr. Rodgers saying in every show: "You've made this day a special day, by just being you.." I miss Fred Rodgers and wish more people were like him.

Most sincerely, Chris Piacente

Mr. Rogers and Officer Clemmons

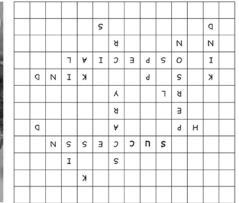
What two details are different in this picture?



In a 1993 episode of *Mister Rogers'* Neighborhood, Mister Rodgers invited Officer Clemmons, a security guard, to soak his feet in a kiddie pool, a reference to a 1969 episode with a similar scene which aired in 1969 amid public outcry over racially segregated pools.

Answers to the Mister Rodgers' Issue Puzzles (Turn upside down to see.)







page 18

## **MORE MISTER ROGERS' PUZZLES**



Find the Hidden Words

You can go across, down and diagonally

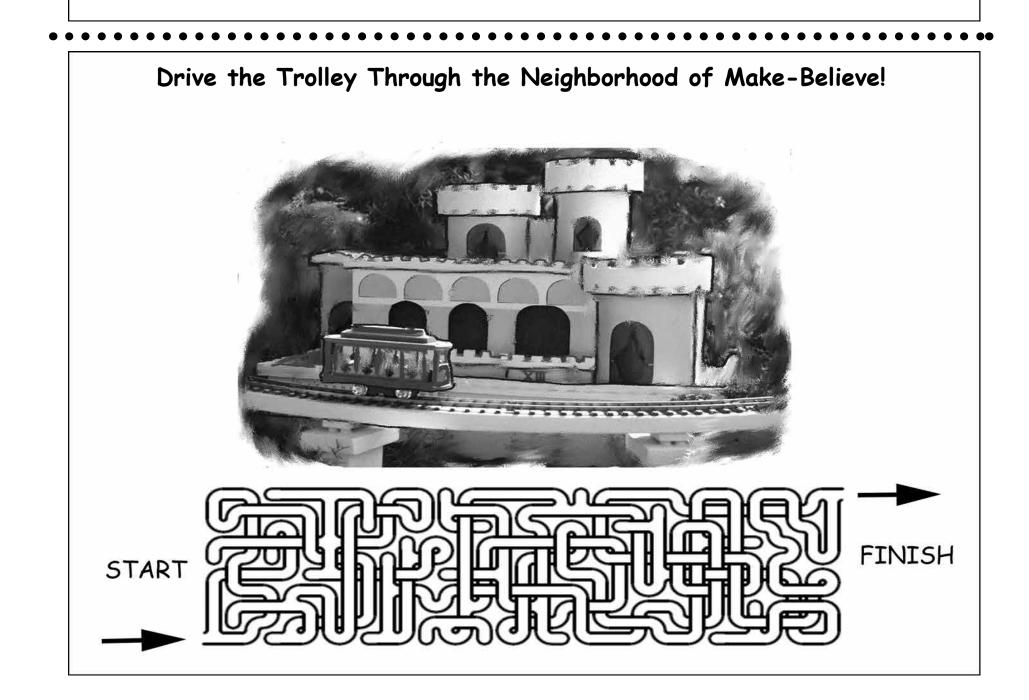
Mr. Rogers and Daniel Tiger

You've made this day a SPECIAL day, by just your being you. There's no PERSON in the whole world like you, and I like you just the way you are.

When I was a boy and I would see SCARY things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for the HELPERS. You will always find people who are helping."

There are three ways to ultimate SUCCESS: The first way is to be KIND. The second way is to be KIND. The third way is to be KIND.

R	0	G	Т	I	G	В	L	V	Ν	В	R	н	D
I	F	R	A	Ν	U	Т	E	A	К	н	Ζ	E	R
J	υ	5	Ρ	0	L	I	5	К	Ν	I	В	E	Μ
С	У	F	Т	S	u	С	С	E	s	s	Ν	0	Ρ
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# L R VE YOUR SMILE







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